

## Message Text

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TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF DEFENSE STATEMENTS ON POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF  
AID CUT-OFF ON U.S. BASE PRESENCE AND TURKEY'S DEFENSE

REF: ANKARA 1547

1. FEBRUARY 26 ISSUE OF USUALLY RELIABLE NEWSPAPER MILLIYET  
CARRIES EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DEFENSE MINISTER  
ILHAMI SANCAR IN WHICH CONTINUED U.S. USE OF BASES  
AND INSTALLATION IS QUESTIONED AND TURKEY'S ABILITY  
TO STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSES WITHOUT U.S.  
ASSISTANCE OUTLINED.

2. SANCAR REPORTEDLY TIED CONTINUED USE OF BASES BY U.S.  
FORCES INTO CONTEXT OF NATO REQUIREMENTS, INDICATING  
POSSIBLE REVISION OF TERMS THAT ALLOW WHAT ARE ESSENTIALLY  
UNILATERAL U.S. USE OF SOME BASES AND INSTALLATIONS.  
WITHOUT DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTING IT TO SANCAR, ARTICLE CARRIES  
QUOTED PASSAGE ON TURKEY'S POLICY ON JOINT BASES,  
INCLUDING STATEMENT THAT "BASES AND INSTALLATIONS NOT DIRECTLY  
ANSWERING TURKEY'S DEFENSE NEEDS SHOULD BE REVISED" AND THAT  
"OTHER BASES SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO NATO, ACCORDING TO  
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THE STANCE OF THE ALLIANCE." THE ARTICLE FURTHER NOTES THAT

SITUATION OF BASES AND INSTALLATIONS DIRECTLY USEFUL TO THE ALLIANCE WILL BE DISCUSSED WITHIN NATO, BUT THAT BASES WHICH KEEP AMERICAN SECURITY IN FOREGROUND AND WHICH DO NOT DIRECTLY SERVE THE ALLIANCE WILL BE DISBANDED. SANCAR REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT U.S. CONGRESS' UNILATERAL DENUNCIATION OF TURKEY'S JOINT DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH U.S. GIVES TURKEY FREEDOM TO MAKE SUCH DECISIONS "FROM HER OWN ANGLE."

2. IN CONTINUING EFFORT TO REASSURE PUBLIC THAT TURKEY CAN GO IT ALONE IF NEED BE (REFTTEL), SANCAR INDICATED THAT GOT HAS ALREADY STARTED CUTTING UMBILICAL CORD TO U.S. AND WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE TOWARD GREATER INDEPENDENCE IN DEFENSE EVEN IF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS RESUMED. HE SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF THE CONSTANT DECLINE IN U.S. MILITARY GRANT AID AND THE SHIFT TO SALES, THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES HAVE BEGUN TO OBTAIN PART OF THEIR REQUIREMENTS FROM OTHER NATO COUNTRIES. HE CITED F-104'S, ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS, ELECTRONIC SIGNAL DEVICES, AND AMMUNITION PURCHASES FROM ITALY AS EXAMPLES. IF AMERICAN EMBARGO IS LIFTED, SANCAR REPORTEDLY SAID, TURKEY WILL CONTINUE TO BUY "CERTAIN ARMS AND MATERIEL FROM THE USA AS LONG AS THEY MEET NATO NEEDS", BUT IF EMBARGO IS NOT LIFTED, TURKISH ARMED FORCES AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ARE REVIEWING CHANGES OF STRATEGY AND DEFENSE NEEDS AND "ARE ESTABLISHING THE ARMS AND AMMUNITION RESOURCES."

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